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General Notes

NEW JERSEY NOTES.

DECEMBER BIRDS IN NORTHERN NEW JERSEY.—On December 24, 1911, while making a sectional census in several northern New Jersey towns, seventeen species of birds were located, and of which four hundred and fourteen individuals were recorded.

The towns passed through in making this census included Caldwell (Essex County), Pine Brook, Horse Neck, Towace, Lincoln Park, and Mountain View (Morris County), a distance of fifteen and one-half miles of much diversified country, and over a period of five and one-half hours. The weather throughout the day was rather warm and very humid and the sky overcast with heavy storm clouds. The species observed were: Flicker (2), Junco (32), Song Sparrow (3), Blue Jay (21), Tree Sparrow (29), White-breasted Nuthatch (5), Downy Woodpecker (3), Herring Gull (1), Starling (25), Chickadee (5), Crow (130), Meadowlark (4), Brown Creeper (2), Goldfinch (79), Tufted Titmouse (17), Bluebird (5), and Myrtle Warbler (1).

In addition to the above records, the following were observed prior to the above date: Sparrow Hawk, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Robin, White-throated Sparrow, Kingfisher, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Fox Sparrow, Marsh Hawk, and Barred Owl. These latter added to those observed on the 24th makes a total of twenty-six species for the month, which is, indeed, a fair list for this portion of New Jersey.

DUCK HAWKS ON NEWARK MEADOWS AND VICINITY.—During the past winter Duck Hawks (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) have been unusually common on the Newark Meadows and vicinity. They were observed near the Plank Road and Passaic River Bridge on January 29th, February 20th and 24th, 1912.

Prior to the above dates I have found this bird only twice before in northern New Jersey. Both of the former records were made at Greenwood Lake on November 3, 1907, and February 6, 1910.

HERMIT THRUSH IN PASSAIC COUNTY, N. J.—On May 27, 1910, a completed nest of this species was located among the low hills of West Milford Township, near the Orange County Line, in a low laurel bush about six inches from the ground and contained a clutch of four eggs, bluish green in color. The nest was composed of bark, grasses and pieces of grape-vines and lined with fine roots and grasses, deeply cupped and compactly formed. On June 10th,

I again visited this nest and found both parents assiduously caring for the young, which appeared about five days old.

As far as I can learn this is the only nest of this species which has been found in New Jersey up to this time. On a number of occasions during the past seven years, while in this neighborhood, I have found the Hermits here during the summer months, but up to the above date never located the least indications of their breeding and rearing young here. There are many Wilson Thrushes present here throughout the late spring and summer months also, but have never found them nesting here.

EARLY TREE SWALLOWS.—On March 30, 1912, a pair of Tree Swallows were seen circling about over the Newark Meadows near Harrison, N. J., for over a half hour. This is the earliest date this bird has been observed so far north in New Jersey during the past decade. The birds appeared perfectly contented, and when they left, they were headed in a northerly direction towards the Hackensack Meadows.

APRIL BIRD NOTES.—At Pompton Lakes, in northern New Jersey, on the 13th and 14th of April, 1912, I found numerous birds which, from previous observations in this locality, would appear of unusual interest and worthy of more than passing notice, and below is appended an annotated list of the species observed on these days. The 13th was warm and showery and the 14th marked by light misty rains and a slight drop in the temperature.

(1) *Colymbus auritus*—Horned Grebe. A pair of these birds seen on Pompton Lake on the 14th. Both still retained the winter plumage. This is the only record of this bird I have for Passaic County.

(2) *Gavia immer*—Loon. One female was found diving, swimming and flying about over the lake on the 14th. This is also a new bird for Passaic County. In fact, it is the first record I have for the state.

(3) *Larus argentatus*—Herring Gull. Nine of these were found on and over the lake on the 13th. This is the first of this species to appear in this neighborhood since August 30, 1903. One was observed at Lincoln Park, ten miles to the south, on December 24, 1911.

(4) *Nettion carolinensis*—Green-winged Teal. A male of this species was found on the lake on the morning of the 14th. This also is a first record for Passaic County.

(5) *Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*—Mourning Dove. Six were

seen on the 14th near the Steel Works at the southern end of the lake.

(6) *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*—Osprey. Two were seen diving and fishing in the lake on both days near the upper end.

(7) *Strix varia*—Barred Owl. One male seen on the east shore of the Pequannock River on the 13th.

(8) *Ceryle alcyon*—Belted Kingfisher. Four were seen on the 13th and three on the 14th.

(9) *Dryobates pubescens medianus*—Downy Woodpecker. But one was found on the 14th on the south shore of the lake in a copse of conifers.

(10) *Colaptes auratus luteus*—Flicker. Common on both days throughout the borough.

(11) *Sayornis phæbe*—Phæbe. One was observed on each day.

(12) *Cyanocitta cristata*—Blue Jay. Were seen commonly on the 13th. But three were found on the 14th.

(13) *Corvus brachyrhynchos*—Crow. Common all over the borough on both days.

(14) *Sturnus vulgaris*—Starling. Common on both days in the residential section. Rare in the rural parts.

(15) *Molothrus ater*—Cowbird. Two were found on the 13th and four on the 14th.

(16) *Agelaius phœniceus* — Red-winged Blackbird. Common about the lake on either day.

(17) *Sturnella magna*—Meadowlark. Common on both days, especially in the old stubble fields.

(18) *Carpodacus purpureus*—Purple Finch. One found near the Steel Works on the 14th.

(19) *Quiscalus quiscula*—Purple Grackle. Common on both days throughout the borough.

(20) *Astragalinus tristis*—Goldfinch. Common on the 14th on all sides. None seen on the 13th.

(21) *Poocetes gramineus*—Vesper Sparrow. But one was seen and heard on the 13th. None on the 14th.

(22) *Zonotrichia albicollis*—White-throated Sparrow. Two were located in a copse of conifers on the south shore of the lake on the 14th.

(23) *Spizella passerina*—Chipping Sparrow. Common on both days, on the roadside especially.

(24) *Spizella pusilla*—Field Sparrow. Common on both days throughout the borough.

(25) *Junco hyemalis*—Slate-colored Junco. Common on both days in the more rural sections.

(26) *Melospiza melodia*—Song Sparrow. Common on both days throughout the section.

(27) *Hirundo erythrogastra*—Barn Swallow. Two were observed in company with the Tree Swallows over the lake on the 14th.

(28) *Iridoprocne bicolor*—Tree Swallow. Six were found on the lake during the morning of the 13th. On the 14th they were common over the lake all day.

(29) *Anthus rubescens*—Pipit. One was seen near the Pequannock River on the 13th.

(30) *Sitta carolinensis*—White-breasted Nuthatch. One found at the Steel Works on the 14th.

(31) *Planesticus migratorius*—Robin. Common on all sides on both days.

(32) *Sialia sialis*. Common on both days throughout the borough.

April 16, 1912.

LOUIS S. KOHLER.

BIRDS AND CATS.

The Audubon Society of Massachusetts, a branch of the great national association, of which there are tens of thousands of members in this country, is appealing to the people to assist in the protection of birds by not allowing their cats to roam during the season when young birds are leaving their nests.

In a fruit-growing section like North East, where thousands of dollars worth of apples and other fruits are destroyed every year by insect pests, and where spraying and other measures are imperatively necessary to hold these pests in check, we need every available bird to pull with us in fighting the noxious insects.

Here in town hundreds of young birds might be saved every spring if those who own cats would not allow them to roam at pleasure during the nesting season.

This is looking at the matter from an economic point of view. There is another view that appeals as strongly to the writer, and that is the pleasure of seeing the wild birds and hearing their cheerful songs.

Many birds come from the woods to town for better protection of themselves, their eggs and their young from the owls, hawks, crows, shrikes, squirrels, skunks, weasels, minks, and last, but not